

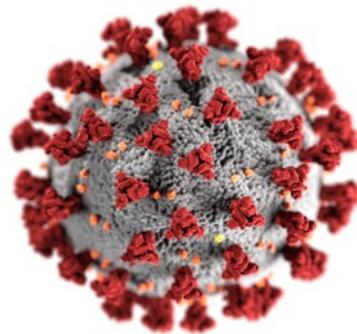
EMS Focus

A Collaborative Federal Webinar Series

What the Vaccine Means for EMS Operations

Today

- ▶ Latest on COVID vaccines and variants
- ▶ The science behind staying vigilant
- ▶ How vaccines impact patient care, operations, quarantine and more
- ▶ Preparing for the next pandemic, now
- ▶ Questions



Today's Speakers

- ▶ **CDR Bryan E. Christensen, PhD, MEPC**
 - ▶ Epidemiologist and Industrial Hygienist, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - ▶ Environmental Health Officer, US Public Health Service

- ▶ **Kenneth A. Schepcke, MD, FAEMS**
 - ▶ State EMS Medical Director, Florida
 - ▶ Chief Medical Officer for several fire-rescue agencies

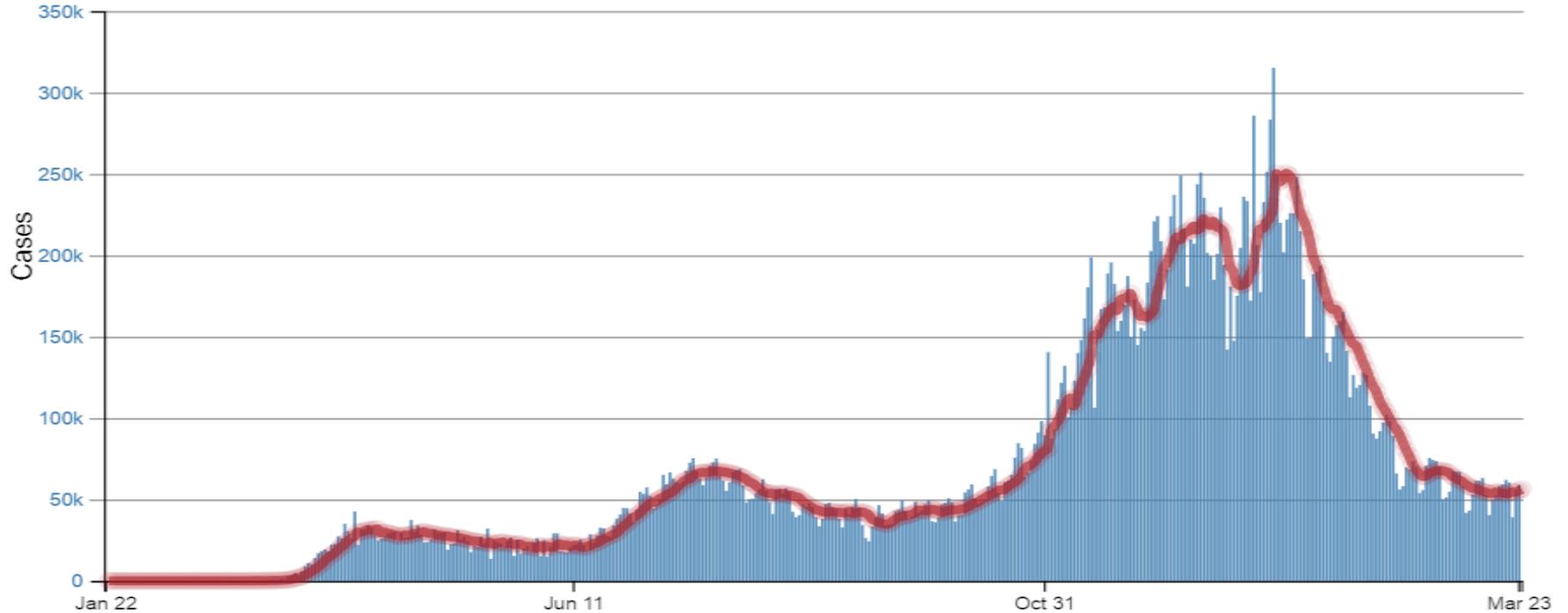
- ▶ **Jon Krohmer, MD, FACEP, FAEMS**
 - ▶ Director, NHTSA Office of EMS
 - ▶ EMS/Prehospital Team Lead, Federal Healthcare Resilience Working Group



Vaccines, Exposure and Risk

CDR Bryan E. Christensen, PhD, MEPC

WHERE WE ARE NOW: CASE RATE



CDC COVID Data Tracker, March 25, 2021

WHERE WE ARE NOW: VACCINATION RATE

Total Vaccine Doses		People Vaccinated	At Least One Dose	Fully Vaccinated
Delivered	169,223,125	Total	85,472,166	46,365,515
Administered	130,473,853	% of Total Population	25.7%	14%
Learn more about the distribution of vaccines.		Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	85,234,448	46,298,888
		% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	33%	17.9%
		Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	38,455,168	23,974,748
		% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	70.3%	43.8%
Read more about how these data are reported.				

CDC COVID Data Tracker, March 25, 2021

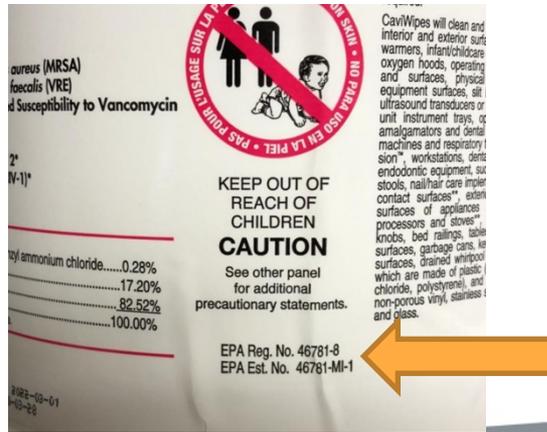
VACCINE EFFICACY AND DURATION



- ▶ Reactions
 - ▷ Injection site pain, mild flu-like symptoms
- ▶ Effectiveness
 - ▷ 72 – 95% (preliminary)
- ▶ Immunity
 - ▷ Under investigation
 - ▷ Manufacturers estimate 2-3 years

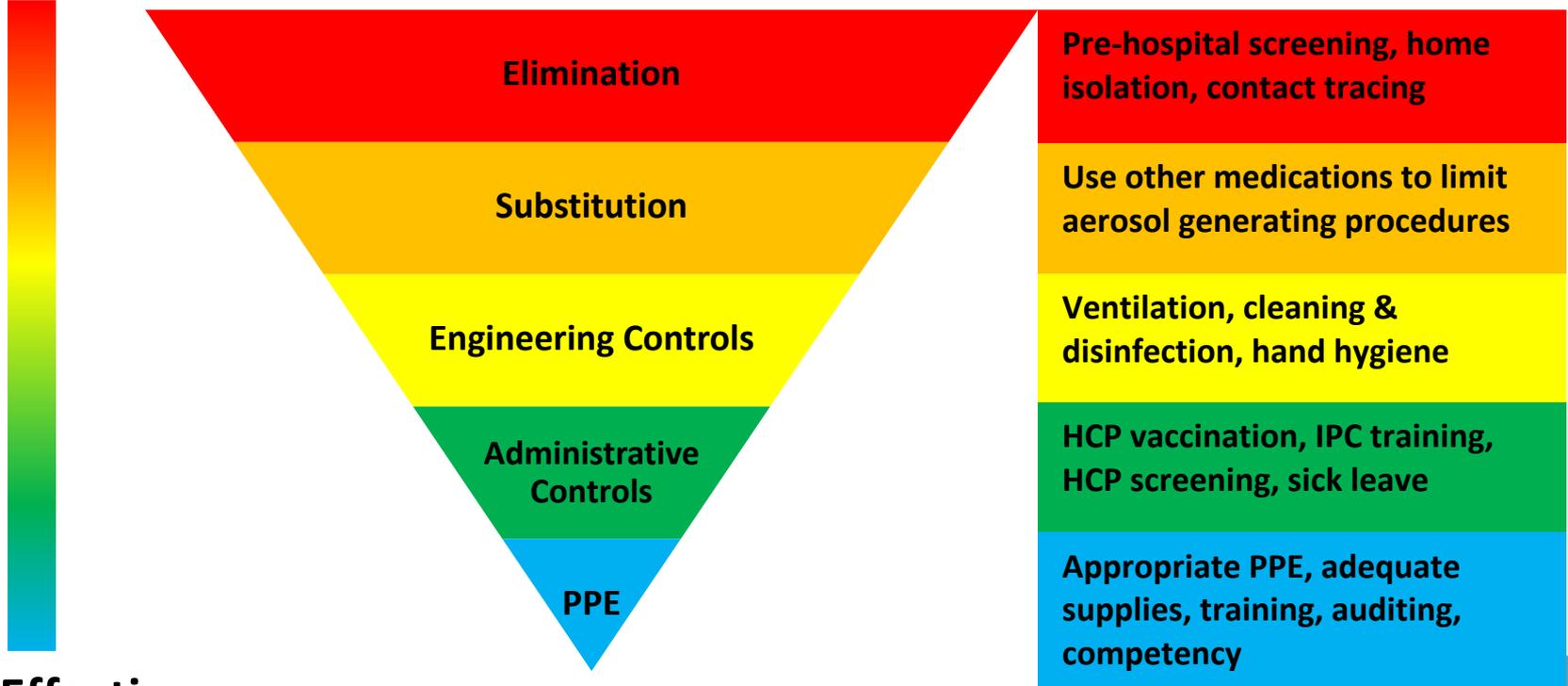
IPC CHALLENGES

- ▶ PPE Quality
- ▶ PPE selection and usage
 - ▷ Respirator type: FFR, PAPR, elastomeric
 - ▷ Gowns vs coveralls
- ▶ Ventilation
 - ▷ Air change rate
- ▶ Cleaning and disinfection
 - ▷ EPA List N disinfectants



HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS – COVID-19

Most Effective



Least Effective

VACCINES, PPE AND QUARANTINE

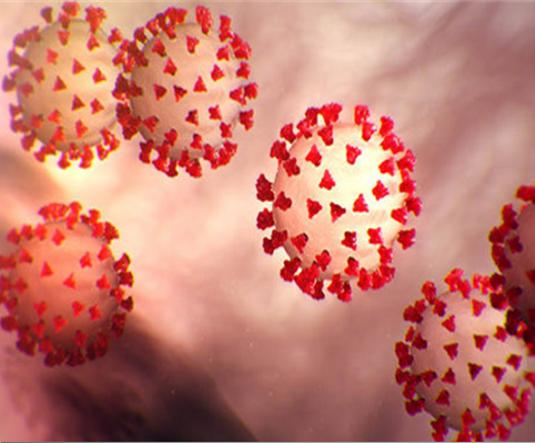


- ▶ Continued IPC practices
- ▶ Post-exposure quarantine status
- ▶ Unchanged guidance
 - ▷ Travel
 - ▷ Testing
 - ▷ Use of PPE
 - Universal PPE (facemasks and eye protection)

WHERE DO WE GO

- ▶ Increase vaccination rates
- ▶ Continue IPC training
- ▶ Improve messaging
- ▶ Maintain vigilance
- ▶ Focus on resiliency
- ▶ Follow the science





COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccination

What are the Lessons for EMS

Kenneth A. Scheppke, MD, FAEMS
State EMS Medical Director
Florida Department of Health

THIS IS NOT THE LAST PANDEMIC!!

- World is set up for pandemics
- Mass Travel
- Encroachment on wilderness/new pathogens/zoonoses
- Population Density





Recent Influenza Pandemics

- 1918 H1N1 “Spanish Flu” 50M dead worldwide, 625k dead in USA
- 1957 H2N2 “Asian Flu” 1.1M dead worldwide, 116k dead in USA
- 1968 H3N2 avian flu 1M dead worldwide, 100k dead in USA
- 2009 H1N1 “Swine Flu” estimated 150 to 500k dead worldwide, 12.5k dead in USA

Have Pandemics Ever Changed EMS Behavior?

- *EMERGENCY!* First aired in 1972
- HIV Pandemic First Recognized in USA in 1981
- Gloves are now universal



Will Masks Ever Go Away... NO!!



Frontline Role in
COVID Pandemic
Will Change EMS
Forever

Johnson & Johnson

Pfizer

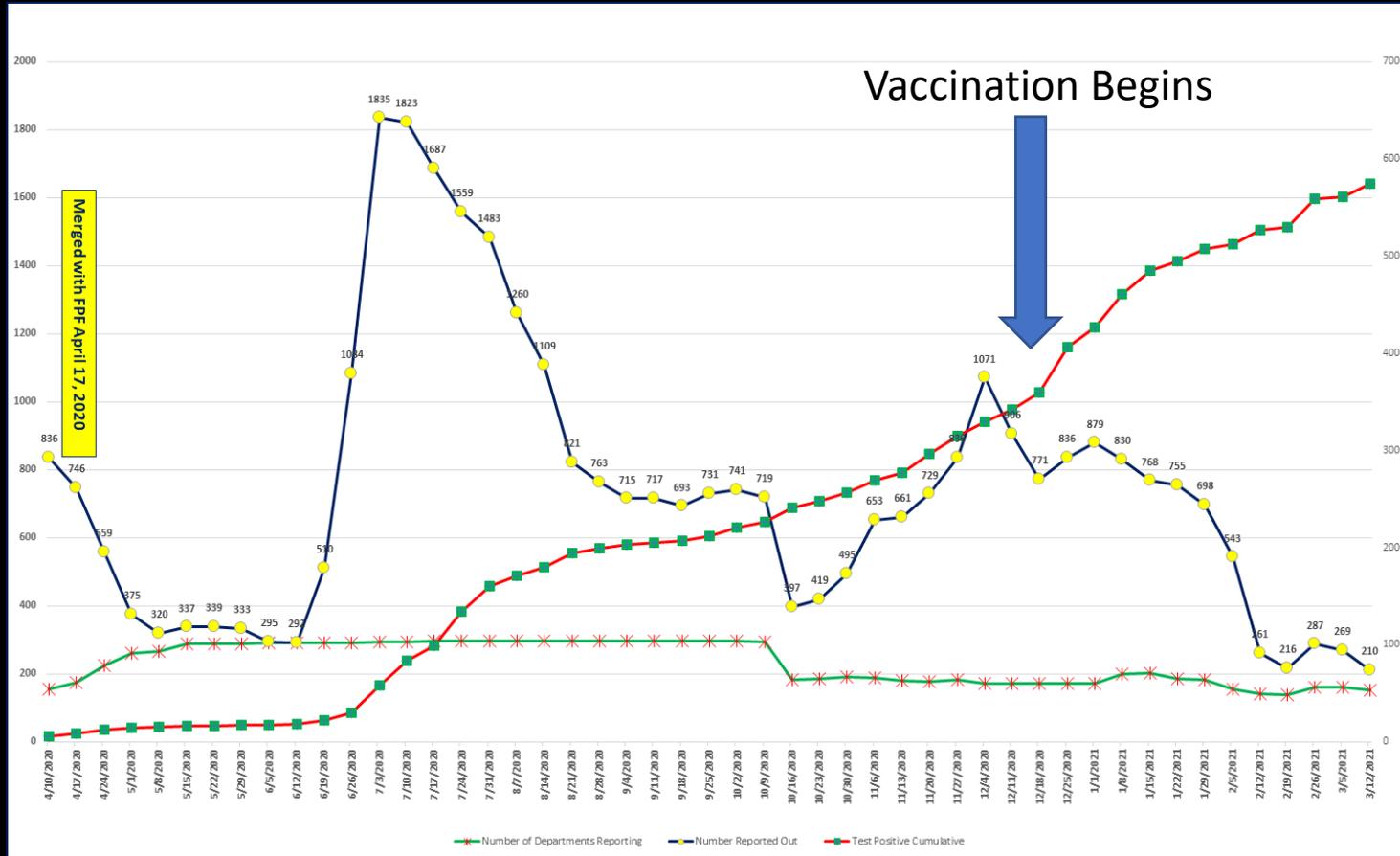
moderna

Thoughts on Vaccine Decision by EMS

- Pandemic will be with us until 80% or more have immunity
- Choose: Vaccine or Disease
- Disease is Russian Roulette, Vaccine is a Known Entity



Paid Time off or Sick Leave Time??



Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Employee Paid Leave Rights

EXPIRED
DEC 31, 2020

Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick leave at the employee's regular rate of pay where the employee is unable to work because the employee is quarantined (pursuant to Federal, State, or local government order or advice of a health care provider), and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms and seeking a medical diagnosis; or

Two weeks (up to 80 hours) of paid sick leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay because the employee is unable to work because of a bona fide need to care for an individual subject to quarantine (pursuant to Federal, State, or local government order or advice of a health care provider), or to care for a child (under 18 years of age) whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19, and/or the employee is experiencing a substantially similar condition as specified by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretaries of the Treasury and Labor; and

Up to an additional 10 weeks of paid expanded family and medical leave at two-thirds the employee's regular rate of pay where an employee, who has been employed for at least 30 calendar days, is unable to work due to a bona fide need for leave to care for a child whose school or child care provider is closed or unavailable for reasons related to COVID-19.

Vaccines are
up to 95%
Effective at
Preventing
Symptoms
Who Pays for
Time off
Now??

Quarantine post exposure

Outbreaks

Staffing/Overtime due to Outbreaks

Peer Pressure for Unvaccinated – Masks
in Station

Work Comp for Long Haulers?

Pandemic
Planning and
Other Side
Effects of COVID
Response

- Learning how to vaccinate
- Learning how to interact with DOH/Other New partners
- Role in Testing, Infection Control Teaching, Countermeasure Administration
- **Community Paramedicine**
- Payment for service rather than transports
- Vaccine Technology Improvements

Where Can I Find the Latest Information on the Vaccines?

- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>



Just Updated March 5, 2021

Regular updates to common issues and concerns are addressed on this page

Information on Underlying Conditions Found Here:



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/underlying-conditions.html>

Thank You!



Questions?

Please submit questions through the webinar platform

For info on COVID-19 and EMS:

ems.gov/projects/coronavirus_covid-19_resources.html

Latest Information from the CDC:

cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html

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Visit



for more info on
COVID-19 and
other national
EMS initiatives.

Thank You

